



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

JORDAN RESOURCE AREA

VALE DISTRICT

100 Oregon Street

Vale, Oregon 97918

<http://www.or.blm.gov/Vale/>

IN REPLY REFER TO:
8372

Januar

Dear Outfitter:

The Vale District of the Bureau of Land Management is now accepting Special Recreation Permit Applications for the 2003 Owyhee River float boat season. Vale District Office issues commercial permits for the entire river including Nevada, Idaho, and Oregon. The Owyhee above Three Forks is closed to new applicants, only those outfitters authorized to launch on the Owyhee in Idaho need apply.

BLM requires commercial outfitters to obtain a Special Recreation Permit prior to operating commercial trips on the Owyhee. Training trips are considered commercial use.

Enclosed is a Special Recreation Permit Application for the 2003 season. **Applications and all of the following must be received in this office by March 15, 2003.**

1. Completed Special Recreation Permit Application form 8370-1.
2. An advance **non-refundable** application fee of \$80.00. Estimated fees are not required on the Owyhee River due to the unpredictable annual flow. Commercial use fees will be based on actual use submitted on the Post Use Report. Boater registration forms must be completed at the launch site prior to each trip. **Post Use Reports must be consistent with Boater Registration Forms**. Post Use Reports are available on the internet and will also be mailed after the season and due at this office no later than September 30.
3. Minimum insurance requirements are \$100,000 for bodily injury to any one person, \$300,000 for any one occurrence, and \$25,000 property damage with the U.S. Government named as additional, or co-insured under the policy. **A copy of the insurance policy must be received in this office before a permit will be issued.**
4. Proof of outfitter/guide authorization with the Oregon State Marine Board, Idaho Licensing Board, and/or Nevada Division of Wildlife, depending on where you will be operating. Photocopy of the authorization(s) is adequate proof.
5. Copy of your latest brochure including price schedules.

Concerning question number 2 of the Special Recreation Permit Application, rather than the legal description, indicate your intended put-in and take-out points. Please, be specific concerning which section(s) of the river you intend to float (e.g., Three Forks to Rome or Rome to Birch Creek or Leslie Gulch). **If you are authorized to put-in above Three Forks, indicate which put-in(s) you will be using.** Also, on question number 4, the arrival date should be your season start date, and the departure date your season end date.

Upon receipt of a completed application, application fee, proof of insurance, proof of Marine Board registration, Idaho outfitter license, Nevada license (as applicable), and brochure, your application will be reviewed and returned to you if approved. Commercial outfitters must have an approved, signed permit from the Authorized Officer before conducting commercial float trips on the Owyhee. In addition to the conditions on the permit, the 2003 Owyhee River Stipulations (included with the permit application) will be made part of the permit. **The permit conditions and commercial stipulations which were in effect last season have been reviewed and revised.** Carefully read the conditions and stipulations to be aware of your responsibilities and any updates.

Damage to hackberry trees in the canyon has decreased, thanks to the combined efforts of the river rangers, commercial and private boaters. Education for the protection of these trees must continue. Remember that hackberry trees appear to be dead early in the season while they are actually dormant. Pulling or cutting live vegetation is prohibited.

Greely Bar is still being over utilized. New growth hackberry trees are being trampled or pulled to provide larger and more comfortable camping sites. Camping directly under the hackberry trees prevents new growth from starting. Please do not allow your clients to set their tents up directly under the hackberry trees. If you witness such activity, please call the Vale BLM District Office or the river specialist stationed at Rome, Oregon and report it as soon as possible.

River specialists and BLM Law Enforcement Rangers will make unscheduled river patrols to provide visitor assistance, information, and compliance.

If you need further assistance or information, write or call Bunny Sterin of my staff at the Vale BLM District Office, (541-473-3144). During the season, you may contact the river specialists stationed at Rome, Oregon (541-586-2612).

Sincerely,

/s/ Jerry L. Taylor
Jerry L. Taylor
Jordan Field Office Manager

Enclosures (4)

Special Recreation Permit Application
2003 Owyhee River Stipulations
2003 Owyhee River Outfitters 7-day Turnaround/Group Launch Schedule
Post Season Report

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